

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DURBAN 00552 180815Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-05 CU-06 ACDA-10 DHA-02  
/106 W

-----078654 180916Z /21

R 180810Z AUG 77

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2649

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

USUN NEW YORK 221

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS DURBAN 0552

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SHUM, SOCI, SF

SUBJECT: NATAL'S SQUATTER PROBLEM

REF: CAPE TOWN 1188 AND PREVIOUS

1. THE DEMOLITION IN EARLY AUGUST OF THE RAMSHACKLE SHANTIES OF APPROXIMATELY 70-80 AFRICAN SQUATTER FAMILIES IN CLERMONT TOWNSHIP NEAR DURBAN, COMING IN THE WAKE OF THE MASS BULLDOZING OF SQUATTER SHACKS IN THE CAPE (REFTELS), HAS CREATED A SMALL PUBLIC FUROR IN DURBAN. DESPITE PLEAS FROM CHURCH AND CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION LEADERS TO WAIT UNTIL ALTERNATIVE HOUSING WAS AVAILABLE, CLERMONT TOWNSHIP MANAGER T. DREYER HONORED A REQUEST BY THE OWNER OF THE LAND AND ORDERED THE SQUATTERS' DWELLINGS DESTROYED AND THE OCCUPANTS EVICTED. APPROACHED FOR COMMENT, DREYER SAID THAT SINCE THE SQUATTERS HAD BUILT THEIR DWELLINGS ILLEGALLY WITHOUT A PERMIT, HE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO ORDER THEIR DESTRUCTION.

2. SEVERAL LOCAL CHARITY ORGANIZATIONS HAVE VOLUNTEERED TO  
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PAGE 02 DURBAN 00552 180815Z

HELP THE SQUATTERS. CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP HURLEY AUTHORIZED A CLERMONT CHURCH TO SET UP A "TENT CITY" ON ITS PROPERTY TO HOUSE MOST OF THE EVICTED FAMILIES AND AN MP ALLOWED FIVE OF THE FAMILIES TO STAY TEMPORARILY ON HIS PROPERTY. IN BOTH CASES LOCAL AUTHORITIES THREATENED TO PROSECUTE BECAUSE THE EVICTED AFRICANS ARE LIVING IN WHITE AREAS WITHOUT PERMISSION OR HAD ERECTED "STRUCTURES" (TENTS)

WITHOUT A PERMIT.

3. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH THIS INCIDENT WAS DWARFED BY THE CAPE  
DEMOLITIONS, THERE ARE AN ESTIMATED 350,000 SQUATTERS LIVING  
IN AND AROUND DURBAN'S AFRICAN TOWNSHIPS. ANY SAG CAMPAIGN  
TO MOVE AGAINST THIS GROUP PRESUMABLY WOULD FACE REPERCUSSIONS  
SIMILAR TO THOSE OBSERVED IN THE CAPE.FARBER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SQUATTERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 18-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977DURBAN00552  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 CAPE TOWN 1188  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1568656  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NATAL'S SQUATTER PROBLEM  
**TAGS:** PINT, SHUM, SOCI, SF  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/b6a61759-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009